

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION FEAE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4622

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6372

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: FEA STUDY WITH PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

REF: A. STATE 143610

B. CARACAS 6334

C. CARACAS 6337

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF TREASURY BENNETT'S TESTIMONY HAS CONSIDERABLY ALTERED CLIMATE OF OPINION WHICH MR. KRUEGER WILL CONFRONT IF HE ENDEAVORS TO PURSUE HIS QUESTIONNAIRE WITH MINISTERS OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS NOW WIDELY KNOWN THAT UNDER SECRETARY BENNETT AND SECRETARY OF TREASURY SIMON (WHOSE PARTING STATEMENT YESTERDAY RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY HERE) ARE IDENTIFIED WITH FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION, WHICH IS MR. KRUEGER'S CLIENT. IN CONSEQUENCE, SHOULD HE GO POKING AROUND WITH A QUESTIONNAIRE, WE RUN RISK THAT HIS AND OUR MOTIVES WILL BE SERIOUSLY MISCONSTRUED. I THEREFORE PROPOSE TO TELL MR. KRUEGER THAT IN OUR BEST JUDGMENT HE SHOULD NOT - REPEAT NOT - APPROACH MEMBERS OF VENEZUELAN CABINET AS HE HAS PROPOSED TO DO.

2. IT WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR HAND IF FEA WERE INFORMED OF THIS TELEGRAM AND COULD GIVE MR. KRUEGER APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS. IN OUR JUDGMENT, HE WILL BE ABLE TO GET SUFFICIENT INFORMATION FROM THE OIL COMPANIES WITHOUT APPROACHING CABINET MINISTERS.

MCCLINTOCK

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